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Esq.; *G. F. Mare, Esq.*; *J. Alexander Man, Esq.* (Commissioner of Customs for Formosa); *Nevile F. Mackay, Esq.*; *William John George Napier, Esq.* (Master of Napier); *John Linton Palmer, Esq.*, Surgeon R.N.; *Major E. B. Sladen* (Political Agent at the Court of H.M. the King of Burmah); *Emanuel Silva, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY from JANUARY 10TH to JANUARY 24TH, 1870.—‘*Origines, Migrations, Philologie, et Monuments Antiques.*’ Par le Duc du Roussillon. 2 vols., 1867. Donor, the author. ‘*Reise in das Gebiet des Weissen Nil,*’ &c. Von M. Th. V. Heuglin, 1869. Donor, the author. ‘*L’Oraison Dominicale en cent Langues.*’ Par S. Apostolides. Donor, the President. ‘*Geography of India.*’ Allen’s Series, 1869. Donor, the author. ‘*Die Deutsche Auswanderung,*’ &c. Von J. J. Sturz. Berlin, 1869. Donor, the author.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF JANUARY 10TH, 1870.—A Map of Eastern part of China and Korea, showing the Routes of Messrs. Oxenham and Markham in 1868-9. Presented by A. Petermann. Map of the World, printed in colours, on Mr. Gall’s projection. Eighteen copies of ditto on smaller scale. Two Maps of the Stars, on Mr. Gall’s projection. Presented by Mr. Bartholomew. Map of the World, showing the Distribution of Butterflies, &c., by Gabriel Koch. Presented by A. Petermann. Map of Chili, on two sheets. Map of Transvaal Republic, &c., showing C. Mauch’s route. Presented by A. Petermann. *Fiskekart over den indre del af Vestfjorden, J. Lofoten. Adgivet af den geografiske Opmaaling, Kristiania, 1869* (on five sheets). Admiralty Charts (32 in number).

The PRESIDENT said that the first communication to be read was a letter from that remarkable traveller, Mr. Hayward, who had been employed by the Society to explore Pamir Land and Eastern Turkistan,—countries hitherto entirely unknown to geographers, British or Russian. One of the brothers Schlagintweit, under the auspices of the East India Company, had indeed reached Kashgar, but until Mr. Hayward performed his late journey no one had given any geographical details of that region, Adolf Schlagintweit having been assassinated at Kashgar. The letter had no reference to what Mr. Hayward has done, but to his projected journey to the Pamir Steppe, which no one from a civilized country had yet thoroughly examined. Lieut. Wood, indeed, did arrive at the source of the Oxus on the margin of that region, but, as a whole, we knew as yet almost nothing about the great lofty plateau called by the natives the Backbone of the World. It is of enormous altitude, and contains the sources of the Oxus and Zariafshan. Mr. Hayward had written to him (the President), saying that if he succeeded in passing the mountain tribes, which are continually warring with each other between Gilgit and the Pamir, and should not be able to return that way, he intended to come out on the other side, and in that case should need a welcome reception by the officers in Russian Turkistan. He (the President) had thereupon made an application to that effect, and the Russian authorities had authorised the Governor-General of Turkistan to receive Mr. Hayward

with all hospitality, and to enable him to return to England through the Russian territories.

The Secretary (Mr. Markham) then read the following letter :—

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ Srinagar, Kashmir, 17th November, 1869.

“ I am leaving here for Gilgit to-morrow, in the hope of being able to penetrate to the Pamir Steppe and the sources of the Oxus from that frontier.

“ You will, I feel sure, be glad to learn that the difficulties which I had anticipated would be thrown in the way of my proceeding through Gilgit are not likely to occur.

“ The Maharaja of Kashmir has kindly promised to assist me, and has guaranteed to protect the expedition for so far as his territory extends into Gilgit. Beyond the Kashmir boundary he cannot be responsible for its further safe progress, nor is it in his power to assist in any way beyond the frontier. Thus far circumstances promise well, and unquestionably great credit will be due to the Maharaja for his kindness and consideration, should success attend my efforts to reach the Pamir from his territory as a base.

“ The officials here maintain the risk to be great, and give a very bad character to the tribes inhabiting the head of the Gilgit and Yassin valleys. Although not so fanatical as the Mahomedans further westward, they are sufficiently untrustworthy to render success very doubtful, and, it is quite possible that I may be a second time foiled in my attempt to penetrate to the Pamir. The danger is certainly great, but I trust that, by taking every precaution and feeling the way carefully before advancing, it may be reduced to a minimum.

“ I have been delayed here waiting for some instruments which, thanks to the kindness of the Government, have been forwarded to me at my application from the Mathematical Instrument Department, Calcutta. They have at length reached here, and I now possess a very complete set of instruments (and spare ones in case of accidents) suitable for the work in hand.

“ I must not fail to mention that it has been very gratifying to me to have received the thanks of the Government of India for the information and map illustrating my late explorations in Central Asia which I have placed at its disposal; and that Government has most kindly given me the handsome sum of 100*l*. From my former communication you will be aware that I had applied for the assistance and sanction of the Government in my present expedition, and that the Government had thought fit to withhold its countenance from the enterprise. I frankly confess that I am perfectly satisfied with the attitude which the Government have assumed towards the expedition. It would be impolitic to accord me any official recognition and sanction, and so run the risk of complications with the frontier tribes. Moreover, I doubt whether such support and countenance would not be a constant source of anxiety to the explorer, lest, by any venturesome step, he should complicate his Government, which cannot now be the case, and a greater scope of freedom for exploration is thus afforded.

“ Whether I shall be able to cross the passes at the head of Gilgit before the spring of next year is doubtful, and it may be found to be judicious to make a winter stay in Gilgit. Much ground might be accounted for between the Indus and the passes. Also the exact point where the meridian range of the Pamir intersects with the chains of the Hindu Kush and the Karakoram would be an important one to fix in the geography of Central Asia.

“ If I can once succeed in crossing the passes leading from the head of Gilgit on to the Pamir, I still believe that reaching the Lake Karakul will be

a comparatively easy task, and that here physical difficulties and privations will alone have to be surmounted. Should all go well, you may, I think, count on my being near the great object of my research and the termination of my labours about the time of your anniversary meeting next May.

"Arrived at the Karakul, I shall find myself placed in a peculiar position. Alone in the heart of Central Asia, it will be a subject of much consideration whether an attempt should be made to return to India through the frontier tribes, or the shorter and, perhaps, safer way into Russian Turkistan should be followed. The latter would be desirable, since a connected series of observations, carried on from Booriji, on the Indus, across the Pamir and into the basin of the Jaxartes, should secure valuable scientific results.

"I will not fail to report the progress of the expedition as far as is practicable; but postal communication, even up to Gilgit, is, at this time of the year, very difficult.

"May I beg you to be good enough to remember me kindly to the Council of the Geographical Society, whose good wishes for the success of the enterprise I feel sure that I have, and

"Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

"To Sir R. Murchison.

"GEORGE W. HAYWARD.

"The Kashmir Government is trying to dissuade me from going *via* Gilgit, not wishing an Englishman to see the exact state of that frontier. The dangers are, I think, exaggerated by the Kashmir officials, and I feel certain that every obstacle will be thrown in the way of proceeding beyond the Gilgit frontier. I shall find it very difficult to communicate with the Yassin or Hunza and Nagar people. The Maharaja has himself told me that only lately the Hunza people have made a raid and burnt some of his villages, and yesterday the news was received here that the Kashmir commandant of the Gilgit district had caught half-a-dozen of the Hunza folks, had mutilated them and then killed them, so that reprisals seem certain. It is impossible to say how an Englishman may be received, or if even they would allow him to come on. Even then he might not be allowed to proceed beyond Yassin or Hunza, and thus the prospect of being able to penetrate to the Pamir seems limited. However, I shall make the attempt; and if not allowed to go on, or even to enter from Gilgit, it will be a satisfaction to have tried one's best. In the event of having to turn back, an attempt must be made from some other frontier. I believe that I shall eventually succeed in the object of my labours, but it may take months, nay, years, to do so.

"I find that *Kashghar* is the proper rendering of the northern capital of the Kush Begie, and not Kashkar, as given on my map. The word was written out for me in Turkistan, and I have mistaken the *g* for *j*.

"It would be desirable if the elevations, as given on my map, &c., were computed by some one appointed by the Society's Secretary. I believe they are all somewhat under the true elevation, and, the boiling-point of water having been recorded, will admit of correction.

"By computation, according to the tables used by the Survey Department, I make the following to be the true elevations:—Yarkand, 4076 feet; Yang-hissar, 4632 feet; Kashghar, 4512 feet."

The following paper was then read:—

A Visit to Easter Island, or Rapa-Nui. By J. L. PALMER, Esq., R.N.

[EXTRACTS.]

It will suffice to say that this island is about 12 miles long, by 4 in its greatest breadth; in shape like a cocked-hat, its ends bluff